

Seeds of Faith



October 2026

Click to go to Faith United Methodist Church's
Website

909 19th Avenue North, Fargo, ND

Office Phone: (701) 232-6844

office@fargofaithumc.org

Pastor Jordan's Cell: (605) 645-0456

PastorJordan@fargofaithumc.org

Jordan's Jargon



"Living with Gratitude"

The other day I was feeling quite low
mentally and emotionally. There is a

melancholy in my spirit. In our nation, cruelty masquerades as sound public policy with mass deportation of people who have no criminal background and who may end up in countries they have never been. The treatment of many of those in detainment is increasingly becoming clear to be cruel and inhumane. The wars across our world, especially in Gaza, makes me quake with rage. Google Earth images are now available where it shows cities completely obliterated in the Gaza Strip. I have to wonder if the total amount dead, over 75,000 now, is a low estimate. When will it end?

Despite all of this, gratitude is important as an antidote to the insanity of our times. Gratitude is saying a prayer for the gully washer of a thunderstorm we had a few days ago. Gratitude is looking at a Nashville Warbler hanging out on Canadian thistles in your backyard. Gratitude is a conversation with your spouse or your child that makes you laugh so hard you have to take a moment to breathe. Gratitude is having the ability to work for something different than the cruelty of our times. Gratitude, giving thanks to God for moments like these, is important, for it is a reminder that there is goodness worth protecting and striving for.

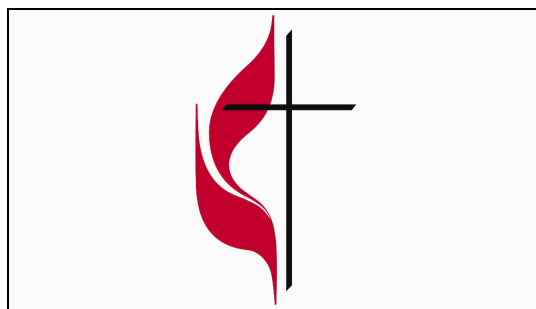
Our upcoming sermon series “Living with Gratitude,” starting on October 11th, is all about giving thanks in the midst of truly harrowing times in our country and our world. It is looking at how prayer, community-building, and working together, can help us remember that our God is good and we can work for good. Despite it all, there is hope through Jesus Christ and hope when we work together to transform the world for the better through our words, presence, and actions.

As part of this series, I invite you to put sticky notes on our Gratitude Wall in the lobby of the church. Let us know what

you are grateful for right now! Additionally, please fill out a Gratitude Card, letting us know how much you plan to give to our common mission, vision, and purpose. We will have these available at the church and look for an email with them as well. There is no pressure to do this, but it is helpful to know how to plan for the following year! Moreover, your gift is greatly appreciated no matter how large or small it is. It all makes a difference! We will have an opportunity to give these cards during worship on October 25th.

We as a church have done so much over the past 70+ years. We can continue to do so much with God's help and through partnering together to work through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Let us cultivate gratitude so that we can rise up with our community to be people of grace and peace in our community and in our world.

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Jordan Louks



Leadership Highlights

Leadership Team Minutes

September 14, 2026
6:15 PM FUMC Library

Attendance: Pastor Jordan, Deb Laber, Teri Dittmer, Dawn Hoherz, Jan Jones, Ken Laber, Kate Naujokas, and Carol Fowler.

Devotions: Pastor Jordan led a discussion on Chapter 2 of the book Calling on Fire.

Minutes: Teri Dittmer made a motion to accept the July 13 minutes. Ken Laber seconded the motion.

Finance Report: Teri Dittmer presented the finance report. She indicated that 25% of our money is in a money market. The other 75% is in CD's. Jan Jones made a motion to approve the finance report and Ken Laber seconded the motion. The report was approved.

Approval of monthly apportionment payment: Dawn Hoherz made a motion to pay the July and August apportionment payments of \$1700 and \$2,099. Jan Jones seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Staff Parish Relations Committee Report: Roger Grimm stated that the people on that committee will meet on Tuesday, September 22 to discuss salaries for the three paid people plus the part time janitor's wage.

Outreach and Missions Report: Dawn Hoherz reported that the Block Party had been held, and everyone had fun at the Red Hawks game. The church is having drives to provide hoodies for the Open Door at Fargo North and snacks for students at McKinley Elementary. Community Game Nights will be held on the first Wednesday of October, November, and December starting at 5:30 PM. Adopt-a-Street clean-up will be September 23rd at 6:00. Shoebox Christmas Project will begin the first Sunday in October. Live Nativity will be December 13. Missions/Outreach committee meetings will be

the 4th Monday of the month. The Scouts have food left to provide for another spaghetti meal for the congregation. The last one was on a bad weather day. A suggestion was that maybe we could have one on Sunday October 4 to go with Pastor Jordan's sermons around the theme of "Come to the Table." Dawn was going to check with the scouts.

Trustees: Ken Laber reported that the trustees are doing the normal fall things like putting the tractor away. No fertilizer is being put down because of the drought. The snow blower is being readied for winter.

Education: Pastor Jordan stated that Faith Kids has started. The Youth Group will be combined with First Church's group. They will alternate meeting places. The Youth Group will help with the Adopt-a-Street clean-up. An adult book study has begun.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Task Force Updates: It was decided that the Building Task Force Committee will meet right before the Leadership Team meeting. The blinds in the fellowship hall are up, the middle counter in the kitchen is done, and the wall art in the fellowship hall and foyer is being worked on. It was mentioned that the water fountain in the fellowship hall doesn't have cold water. Commercial signs (feather flag type) that say, "Welcome to Faith" will be put outside whenever there is an activity at the church. It was suggested that a shower be put between the bathrooms on the east side. By doing that, the church would be qualified to be a Red Cross Shelter. The plans are to still update the outdoor sign.

Strategic Plan Updates: Pastor Jordan stated that work is being done on the strategic plan categories which include building updates, listening during the summer and putting

priorities together, reaching new people and following up with new people.

NEW BUSINESS

A request has been made for the church to publish the Financial Report and the Leadership Team meeting minutes in the newsletter and post them on the bulletin board outside the office. Both the minutes and the finance report should be submitted by September 28th. Dawn Hoherz made a motion that the Leadership Team meeting minutes and the finance report be submitted no later than two weeks after the Leadership Team meeting. Ken Laber seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A second request was made to discuss the possibility of changing our software system from ICON to Tithely. It was discussed at the Finance meeting and with Kristen, our office assistant, and we decided at this time we will continue to work with ICON.

Upcoming Important dates:

September 15 Finance meeting — 5:00 PM

September 23 Adopt-a-Street Clean-up — 6:00 PM

October 7 Game Night — 5:30 PM

November 12 Charge Conference — 6:30 PM

December 13 Live Nativity and Santa Lucia Celebration

Next meeting — October 12 at 6:15 PM

Submitted by Carol Fowler



Faith Methodist Church

OPERATING REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

JANUARY - AUGUST 2026

Line #	Description	Actual Jan-Aug 2026	Budget Jan-Aug 2026	Variance Jan-Aug 2026
Ln 1	OPERATING REVENUES			
Ln 2	CONTRIBUTIONS-GENERAL FUND	\$ 162,782	\$ 136,000	\$ 26,782
Ln 3	OTHER RECEIPTS	\$ 1,456	\$ 4,000	\$ (2,544)
Ln 4	TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 164,238	\$ 140,000	\$ 24,238
Ln 5	OPERATING EXPENDITURES			
Ln 6	CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENTS	\$ 21,173	\$ 18,200	\$ 2,973
Ln 7	LOCAL PROGRAMS	\$ 6,552	\$ 6,035	\$ 517
Ln 8	OFFICE	\$ 4,690	\$ 8,179	\$ (3,489)
Ln 9	PROPERTY	\$ 38,984	\$ 43,298	\$ (4,314)
Ln 10	STAFF & CONTRACTED LABOR EXPENSES	\$ 67,894	\$ 64,034	\$ 3,860
Ln 11	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$ 139,294	\$ 139,746	\$ (452)
Ln 12	TOTAL REVENUES MINUS EXPENDITURES	\$ 24,944	\$ 254	\$ 24,691
Ln 13	ADJUSTMENT (Subtract Urban Grant - Pastoral Services)	\$ 18,000		\$ (24,691)
Ln 14	NET BALANCE AFTER ADJ FOR URBAN GRANT	\$ 6,944	\$ 254	\$ 49,381

As of August 31, 2026, Faith UMC's fiscal operating revenues year-to-date are \$164,238, and operating expenditures are \$139,294, resulting in a positive net gain of \$24,944.

Please note that Faith UMC received a five year urban grant from the Dakotas Conference to cover pastoral service. From January to August 2026, \$18,000 has been received. This is depicted on line 13 as an adjustment to show the net balance if the grant had not been received (Ln 14).



Attendance

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Attendance	36	57	38	47



The Gospel of Luke records many meals that Jesus eats with others - Jesus clearly enjoyed eating! It was in breaking bread with others that Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God and revealed important things about himself. Through the table, Jesus showed the importance of community,

connection, belonging, and hope. These helped people come to know God more.

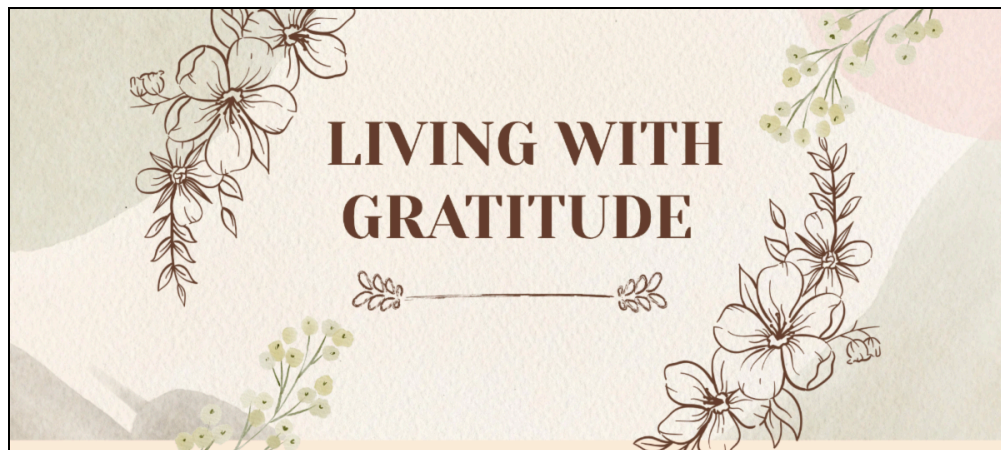
October 4, 2026 – 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon Title: Reminders of Hope

Sermon Focus: God reminds of the hope we have in Jesus and in community.

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

Special Elements: World Communion Sunday; Faith Food Pantry Offering (Items)



This three-week series looks at what it means to live with gratitude in response to what God has given us through the creation. How do we cultivate that gratitude and remember

that God walks with us through every season? Moreover, what does it mean to work together to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in our time? We give thanks to God, not out of obligation, but with grateful hearts as we work together to share the love of Jesus Christ to transform our community and our world.

October 11, 2026 – 20th Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon Title: Our Good God

Sermon Focus: God loves the creation and calls it good, creating, redeeming, and sustaining us all.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-31; John 3:16-17

Special Elements: Gratitude Cards

October 18, 2026 – 21st Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon Title: God Walks With Us

Sermon Focus: Sometimes it is hard to find God's presence, but God is walking with us through every season of life.

Scripture: Psalm 121

Special Elements: Guest Preacher, Betty Schlepp

October 25, 2026 – 22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon Title: Our Work Together

Sermon Focus: God calls us into community, providing us loving purpose.

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17; Psalm 133;
Matthew 22:37-40

Special Elements: Gratitude Sunday Potluck



We had 280 families visit our food pantry in September and we served them 12,500 pounds of food.

We had two distributions on September 11 and 25. The first distribution of the month which was September 11, we brought supplies to McKinley for their snack program for students who were not able to bring their own snacks. On that day we also brought food, personal hygiene items and hoodies to Fargo North's Open Door program, used to help students who are homeless and or struggling.

We had a good month with great volunteers and great fellowship.

Thank you to everyone who supports our program with time, money and donations! Your help is greatly appreciated!

Deb Laber

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates

Friday, October 9th @ 1:30 pm

Friday, October 23rd @ 1:30 pm



First UMC + Faith UMC

YOUTH GROUP

6th - 12th grade welcome

Upcoming...

10/14 - First UMC @ 7pm

10/28 - Faith UMC @ 7pm



Faith Kids kicked off in September and is our Sunday school program for children ages 4-5th grade. Children, after hearing a short message from Pastor Jordan, are invited to take part in it with Teri Dittmer, our Faith Kids leader.

If you are interested in volunteering with Teri on Sunday mornings, please let her or Pastor Jordan know.

Also, invite your kids and grandkids to take part in this group!



Please join us if you can in supporting these great missions...

An illustration of a woman with red hair and a child with blonde hair sitting at a table. They are both smiling. On the table is a lunchbox with a face and a board game. The background is a colorful, abstract pattern of overlapping circles in shades of green, yellow, and pink.

Have any lunch plans??

Faith UMC &
McKinley Elementary

**Lunch Buddy
Program**

Contact the office to learn how you can
**change a child's life with
30 minutes a week!**

McKinley Elementary School has a need for people to be part of their **Lunch Buddy program**. Basically, adults from the community go **have lunch and play a board game once a week** with a student in the program. This is a wonderful way for us to connect with students in our neighborhood. If you have interest, please contact the church office or signup in person. We can get you connected with McKinley as the program relaunches this fall!

FAITH UMC



2026 Faith UMC Shoebox Christmas Project

Kit includes:

- 1 shoebox
- 1 information sheet
- 1 gift suggestion sheet
- 2 large rubber bands
- 1 white index card

Instructions:

- Wrap box and lid **separately** with Christmas wrapping paper.
- **Four items are required for each box:**
 1. Warm cap.
 2. Warm mittens for pre-school children. / Warm gloves for older age groups.
 3. Toothpaste.

4. Toothbrush.

See the suggestion sheet for other items to add to the box.

- Add some **candy**.
- Add only **new** items.
- **Please do not include clothing other than the cap, and mittens/gloves. We do not know the size of the child who will receive the box.**
- Please do not include cash in the shoebox.
- Use a large rubber band to close the box. Do not seal the box with tape because all boxes are checked prior to distribution.
- Write the **gender** and **age group** on the white card and tape it to the top of the box.

Reminders for shopping for Shoebox Christmas Gifts:

- Generally, boys and teens have the fewest boxes. Please keep this in mind when you are shopping.
- This may be the only present many of these children receive.
- Please do not include hygiene products other than toothbrushes and toothpaste in this offering.
- Gifts must be age appropriate.

Boxes need to be returned to the church no later than Sunday, Nov. 1, 2025.

If you have any questions, contact Carol Fowler

Cell: 605 290-0041

Email: carol222@abe.midco.net or contact the church office:
701 232-6844



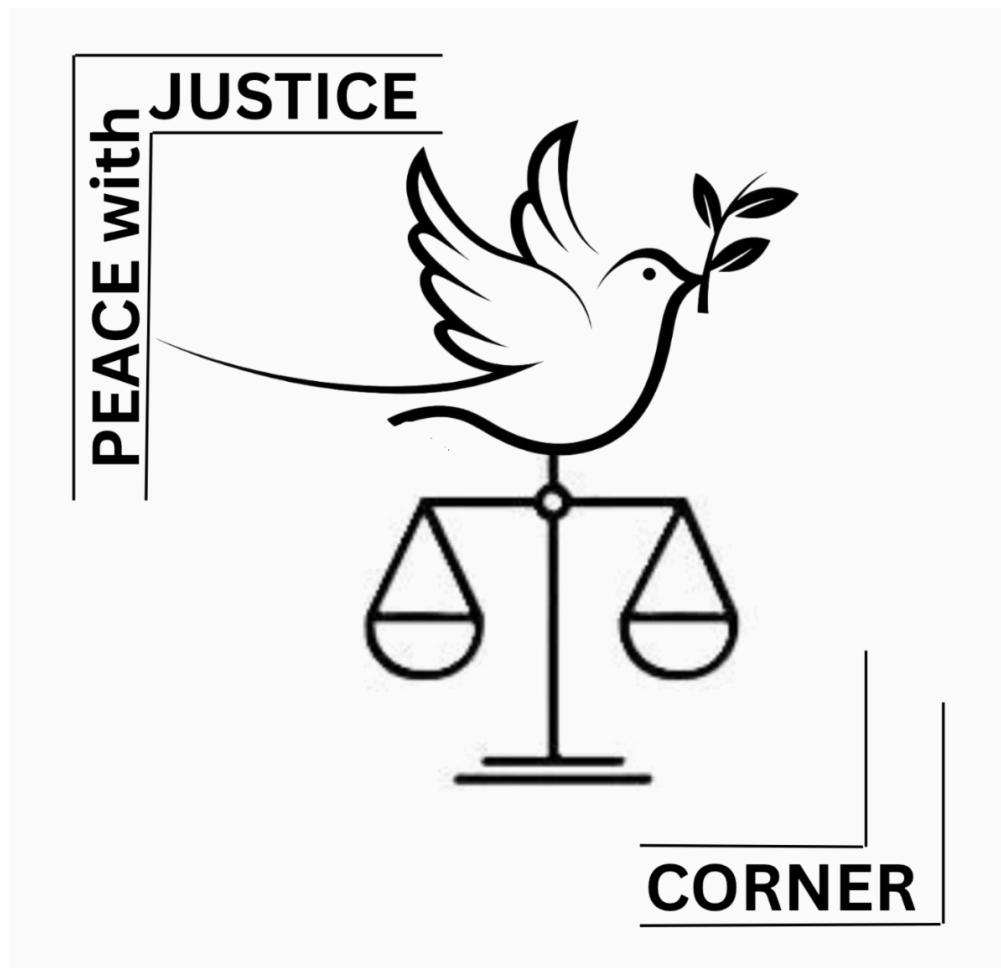
PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED!

The Communications Team
wants your photos to use in our
projects

- Website Images
- Monthly Newsletter
- Special Church Events
- Weekly Announcement Slides
- & Much More!



Office@FargoFaithUMC.org
701-232-68644



Discipleship and Voting

Christian involvement in political systems, according to the United Methodist Church's Social Principles, "is rooted in the gospel imperative to love our neighbors, to do justice, and to care for the vulnerable. As United Methodists, we acknowledge that love requires responsible political action and engagement aimed at the betterment of society and the promotion of the common good." It is not about power over and against other people. It is about working for human dignity, compassion, and striving to build a better world, leaving the world better than we found it.

The United Methodist Church greatly affirms and supports the right to vote of all adult citizens and declare it to be a basic human right. As stated above, it is rooted in the "gospel

imperative to love our neighbors.” When there is rhetoric, policy, and practice, that harms our neighbors, then there is need for us as Christians and United Methodists to respond.

One of the ways in which we can do that is through voting. Local, state, and federal laws affect our neighbors. They affect you. In a season of rising authoritarianism and fear-based politics, it is important for us to exercise the right to vote to effect change in our democracy. Regardless of the times though, voting is important for a democracy and for loving our neighbors.

In North Dakota, election day is November 3, 2026. The Interfaith Alliance of North Dakota and the League of Women Voters put together the following steps to prepare to vote:

- 1. Have your North Dakota ID ready.**
- 2. Plan how you'll vote: by mail, early in-person, or in-person on Election Day**
- 3. Research your candidates and ballot measures on [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).**
- 4. Spread the word! Remind your friends and family to vote.**

Voting is an act of discipleship. A prayer for how you would like to see the world. It matters because elected leaders and policies affect you and your neighbors. May we be active in voting, prioritizing love of neighbor, human dignity, and justice for all people.



What's Happening at
FUMC!



COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT

FAITH UMC
909 19TH AVE N, FARGO, ND 58102

**FOOD, GAMES, &
CONNECTION**

**1ST
WEDNESDAYS
OF THE MONTH**

**OCTOBER 7, 2026
5:30 - 8:00 PM**

**FREE
FOR
ALL!**

GAMES PROVIDED	LIGHT MEAL PROVIDED	BRING FOOD TO SHARE	BRING GAMES TO SHARE
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Every year we remember loved ones who have died over the past year during our All Saints Sunday worship. We will do that again this year, lighting a candle and ringing a bell for those in our congregation who have passed. Additionally, there will be an opportunity for us to all light a candle in remembrance of those in our lives who are no longer with us.

Join us on Sunday, November 1st as we celebrate All Saints Day and give thanks to God for the people who have made an impact on our lives.



Thursdays @ 5:30pm

Our Thursday night Adult Book study continues into October with the book *Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny*. The discussion and camaraderie of the group have been great as we have been able to talk about what it means to respond as Christians in times of rising authoritarianism in our country and our world. Christians are not called to remain silent in the face of injustice and oppression, but speak boldly with love. In October we will keep discussing this topic October 15th.

Join us even if you don't have time to read!

On October 22nd we will begin a new book called *Wesleyan Vile-Tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity*. Through looking at our Methodist origins, we can begin to reclaim the heart of our Methodist identity as we seek to build up a community of connection, belonging, and hope in Fargo-Moorhead.

Join us for this five-week book study as well!

Member Spotlight On...



Precious Ngwayarudza



Precious Ngwayarudza Awarded NDSU Scholarship by Jane Winston

Precious Ngwayarudza was awarded the Eleanor S. Fitzgerald Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship in the College of Health and Human Sciences at a campus program last month.

Precious is completing her PhD program this academic year. Her research project involves examining the factor structure and reliability of the Protective Factors Survey and evaluating the effect of a parenting program (Positive Discipline and Parenting the Love and Logic Way) on family-focused outcomes in North Dakota.

She is a native of Zimbabwe Africa and has studied at NDSU since August 2022.

She started attending Faith United Methodist that year and volunteers at the food pantry, serves as a lay reader, and a member of the hospitality team.

Precious has 4 siblings and is the firstborn in her family.

She is seeking a faculty position in Human Development and Family Science or Psychology with a focus on undergraduate teaching after graduating next May.

In her free time, she enjoys reading.



Children's Message



Adopt-A-Street Highway Cleanup September 23rd





English Conversation Group



A Joyous Day at the Lakes!

On Sunday, September 27th, Faith's English Conversation Group and Connections .Com, a Community on the Move, spent a wonderful afternoon at Janet Jones' Lake home eating food from across the globe, appreciating the beauty of nature, fishing, and joining in community to connect, belong and foster hope.



October

02 - Cade Carvell

12 - Katelyn Carvell

20 - Andrew Anderson



Prayers for the World

- Those in ICE detainment camps
- Those in prison

- Those impacted by gun violence in America
- Those facing food insecurity and hunger
- Those experiencing homelessness
- The people of Gaza, Palestine, & Israel
- The people Ukraine & Russia
- The people of Sudan
- The people of Congo
- The people of Nigeria
- The people of Iran
- Those serving in the U.S. military

Prayers of Support

- Family and Friends of June Heneman

To make a prayer request please call the office at
701-232-6844 or fill out a
"How can we pray for you?" card available in each pew and in the
office.



Connections.com

*(A Community On the Move)
Presents*

A Celebration of the Autumn Season

A new season begins with cooler air, golden leaves, warm colors, storytelling of by gone times and myths in American culture.

A light meal will be served followed by activities - making of caramel apples from the autumn harvest and candy popcorn balls, pumpkin decorating in preparation for Halloween and music and stories by the fireside.

(Weather permitting this event will be held outside at the following location; activities will be moved indoors for inclement weather.)

OCTOBER 16, 2026; 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

LOCATION: 909 19TH AVE N FARGO ND 58102

This is an event for all ages and backgrounds.

Text to 701.793.1191 to request more information.



SCAN ME



As local, state, and federal food programs are seeing reduced funding, more people in our community may be facing food insecurity.

Please consider making a donation to the Faith Food Pantry.

Nonperishable foods can be placed in our food pantry box in the main entrance of the church or financial donations are always accepted in the office.



If you would like to give online, you can do so by using this QR code.

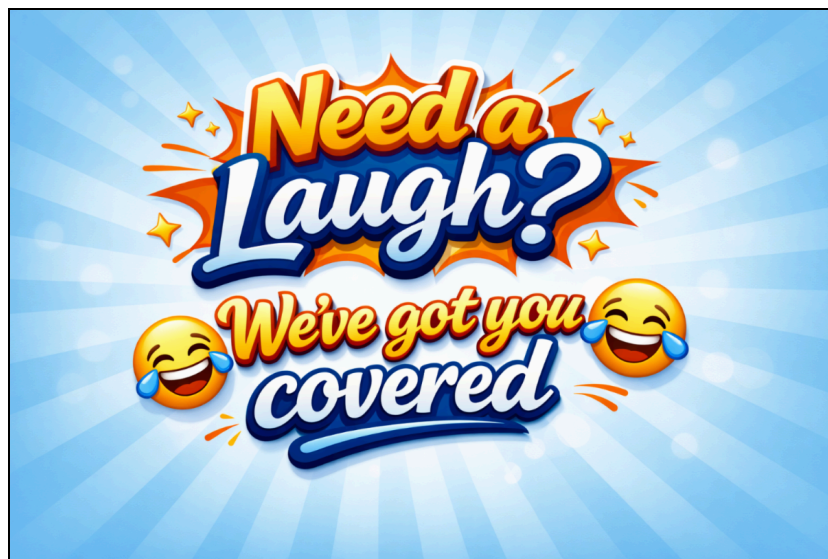




Amplify Dakotas Resource Library

Are you interested in diving deeper into Scripture through Bible and book studies? Every member of a United Methodist Church has a wonderful opportunity to engage with online studies via Amplify Media. We also have a specific Dakotas channel on Amplify Media. Importantly, you do not have to pay anything for it. It is free to sign up and use!

Check out [this link](#) for more information about Amplify and how to sign up today!



What did the cupcake say to the icing?

"I'd be muffin without you."

What do you call a Frenchman wearing sandals?

Philippe Philoppe

How can you tell the difference between a crocodile and an alligator?

Easy, one will see you later, the other will see you in a while.

Faith United Methodist Church
Leadership Team

Leadership Chair	Deb Laber
Vice Chair	Kate Naujokas
SPRC Chair	Roger Grimm
Finance Chair	Teresa Dittmer
Treasurer	Susan Reed
Trustee Chair	Ken Laber
Mission & Outreach Chair	Dawn Hoherz
Education Chair	TBD
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Carol Fowler
Member At-Large	Janet Jones
Pastor (Ex-Officio)	Pastor Jordan Louks



Faith United Methodist Church | 909 19th Ave N. | Fargo, ND 58102 US

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